

Cultural Studies - On Festivals and a Crisis in Living

By Shomit Sirohi

What is called cultural criticism becomes cultural studies. In the sense then of fashions, there has been Sartre and then Foucault. Nowadays it is French philosophy, but surprisingly an Indian philosopher who is at their level of French structuralism, Shomit Sirohi. He appears like that, so it is like that. Now in a crisis of capital or company living crisis going on now for three months, would it be surprising to say, that is all cultural criticism like, in cultural criticism then one says - the culture of changing facts, people living first in Madrid then moving to Paris and then even say Thailand, and going to beaches every year again and again. Like a travelling culture that people enjoy. Now a company crisis lived so long is funny, for people in cultural studies, one can just opt for as it were the option - reduction. It is simple to understand.

How it ruins life as the story goes is that one is being a CS type and reading and writing and reflecting in the room, as in fact reduction goes on. This image then of Hegel, or Spinoza, in the period actually of Prussian state developments and capitalist developments, in his room, busy following philosophy and all that passes by. In that same sense, live a reduction.

Noisy stuff, raw sounds as Deleuze would joke.

What it is then in cultural studies is a discourse and a thing actually. It means this is discourse that we keep doing, talking and chatting, but actually it is a thing, like a festival or Hindu mela and all those far right things, like Ganapati symbolism in Mumbai, which is so evident to be a far right symbolism. I mean then can we say, Ganapati celebrations and Ganesh Visarjan in Hyderabad and so many festivals in Hindu standards creates a crisis of living - imagine living in Borivali, Mumbai and all the proletariat and Dalit people hanging out in rooms on balconies observing the Ganesh visarjan festival. Everyone's life comes to a standstill, it is just the Ganpati one month celebration being followed.

Our symbolism is more positive, it is called circles and their happiness. Now join the circle, or in fact be into just a simple outing instead, follow how circles and cultural logics. I say logics here, like a logic of sense actually.

Reduction then is also in fact partying. And one works in a computer, and keeps researching and reflecting. A Hegelian image for the left. Actually the crowds in Ganpati Visarjan Borivali, would claim "the festive nature of the festival is not so different afterall from your life. It is same." Get this as Oskar Negt.

K. Satyanarayana argues "reduction is simply a festival for Dalits, they would in fact be doing a lot of talking and conversation on just the festival. Let us call it cultural studies that it is for capitalists now in a long crisis freedom to enjoy, just keep labouring is Dalit, that we keep writing and reflecting in Hegel's image, actually we should be participating in the reduction, but this exclusion is then philosophical. And proves in cultural senses, something clear - imagine one month of Ganpati symbolism going on in cinematic senses in the neighbourhood, it would be as bad or as good."